



YAG capsulotomy laser treatment

What is YAG capsulotomy laser treatment?

YAG capsulotomy is a laser treatment to clear the cloudy capsular bag in which your intraocular lens sits within.

How does the capsule become cloudy?

During cataract surgery your cataract is removed and a new intraocular lens is implanted into the capsular bag. Over many months or years, this capsular bag can become cloudy as new cells grow in this space.

What are the symptoms of posterior capsular opacification?

When the new cells grow in the capsular bag this is known as posterior capsular opacification. The symptoms may be similar to your initial cataract with blurred vision, reduced contrast sensitivity or glare.

Does everybody get posterior capsular opacification?

A majority of patients that have cataract surgery will develop posterior capsular opacification to some extent, although the timeframes can vary from a few months after the surgery to many years. Some patients never develop visually significant posterior capsular opacification.

How is posterior capsular opacification treated?

The treatment for posterior capsular opacification is to use a YAG laser.

What happens during the procedure?

YAG capsulotomy is an outpatient procedure under local anaesthetic. There is no preparation required and you may eat and drink as normal before your procedure.

The laser treatment is applied whilst you sit at a modified slit lamp or examination microscope, similar to the one used to examine your eyes by your ophthalmologist or optician. Local anaesthetic and dilating drops are instilled into the eye being treated. A contact lens is then placed on the eye and laser applied. You will see a bright light but the treatment is not painful.

The treatment takes approximately ten minutes for each eye.

Your vision may be blurred for the next few hours as your pupil is dilated; please bring a driver to take you back home. You may be prescribed anti-inflammatory drops following the laser treatment.

The treatment does not make your eyes painful afterwards but you may take some Paracetamol if your eyes are sore.

Are there any potential problems?

YAG capsulotomy is extremely safe in the vast majority of patients.

The following are very rare complications following the laser treatment:

- Inflammation (usually transient)
- Raised intraocular pressure (usually transient)
- Floaters (usually transient)
- Intraocular lens damage
- Macular oedema
- Retinal detachment

Can posterior capsular opacification reoccur?

Once you have had your YAG capsulotomy and this cloudy capsule is cleared you will not get a recurrence of this posterior capsular opacification.

Instructions for patients following YAG capsulotomy treatment

1. Sometimes Mr Ratnarajan may give anti-inflammatory drops to be used for one week after the laser treatment.
2. For the remainder of the day your vision may be blurred due to the dilating drops put in your eyes to perform the laser treatment.
3. If you develop pain in the treated eye, take a painkiller such as Paracetamol and apply a cold compress over the eye. If the pain persists contact us on 0800 005 3335.
4. A follow up appointment will be arranged to see Mr Ratnarajan 6 weeks after the laser treatment.

Questions or concerns

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Mr Ratnarajan on:

Tel: 0800 005 3335

Email: info@innovationeyeclinic.co.uk